चाहता हूं कि जब अमेरिका के भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति उत्तर प्रदेश गए थे, तब उनको रिसीव करने वाले इसी समाजवादी पार्टी के मुख्य मंत्री मुलायम सिंह यादव थे। ...(व्यवधान)...मैं उस पर भी कोई आपत्ति नहीं कर रहा हूं, लेकिन यह मैं भी जानना चाहता हूं कि वही मुलायम सिंह यादव और इस सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य अमर सिंह, इज़राइल के जो प्रतिनिधि उत्तर प्रदेश में आए थे, उनसे क्या वार्तालाप कर रहे थे?...(व्यवधान)...ये सारी बातें आज के दिन उभरकर सामने आती हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...मान्यवर, हमारे देश की परंपरा, सभ्यता और संस्कृति के परिपालन में हमारे प्रधान मंत्री यदि अमेरिकन प्रेज़ीडेंट को रिसीव करने जाते हैं, तो मैं सोचता हूं कि यह उस परंपरा का परिपालन है। ...(व्यवधान)... इसलिए मैं आपसे अनुरोध करूंगा कि क्वेश्चन ऑवर को चालू रखा जाए। ...(व्यवधान)...क्वेश्चन ऑवर चालू रखा जाए।

...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at eleven minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock; MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Collapse of newly built highways in eastern India

*161. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the incidents of portions of newly-built highways under the Golden Quadrilateral Project (GQP) caving in certain parts of the eastern India, in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that NHAI has adopted uniform technical parameters for laying roads under the GQP throughout the country in disregard to the varied geological formations and soil texture prevailing in different parts;

(d) if so, the rationale therefor;

(e) whether any investigation into the reasons for collapse of sections of GQP highways have been carried out and accountability fixed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 110 metre portion of the Kharagpur side embankment on the right hand side approach road to Road Over Bridge in Km. 19 of National Highway No. 6 in West Bengal subsided on 09.02.2006.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Detailed survey and soil investigations are carried out for individual projects and designs of various road features are made by specialised consultants, keeping in view the site conditions and specific local requirements to achieve the prescribed standards. The standards are contained in the norms/guidelines of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Indian Roads Congress and Bureau of Indian Standards. In the absence of any specific norms the international norms are followed.

(e) and (f) National Highways Authority of India has constituted an Enquiry Committee comprising former Director General (Road Development), Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and professor of IIT Kharagpur who is Geo-Technical expert, to investigate the reasons and circumstances leading to failure of the approach road of ROB and to suggest remedial measures.

Setting up of Indian Maritime Service Cadre

*162. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have so far been made to set up an Indian Maritime Service Cadre;

(b) whether such a move will efficiently serve the requirements of all maritime related positions like shipping, light houses, sea ports, vessels, etc.; and

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal from Indian Maritime Industry to employ foreign officers on case to case basis if Indian hands are not available for such positions?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The creation of a pool of maritime experts in various fields related to maritime sector has been